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BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

For 1915,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

BY

CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. CAMB., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON:

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1915.

“REDVERS,” EXMOUTH,

January 31st, 1916.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Budleigh Salterton District for the year 1915. The headings of the subjects are arranged similarly to previous Reports, thus following the scheme laid down by the Local Government Board and contained in their Memorandum to Medical Officers of Health (1912). This arrangement also facilitates reference and comparison. As Budleigh Salterton is a very small District, it is impossible to deal with some of the sections of the Memorandum.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Budleigh Salterton occupies a sheltered position between Sidmouth and Exmouth, and is built on the sides and bottom of a valley running south-south-east downwards to the sea, a natural aid to efficient drainage being thereby provided. The soil is gravel over red sandstone, and the surface rapidly dries after rain. Fog is rare, and when it does occur, is only from the sea. Fishing and the building trade are the main sources of employment for the working classes. The number of fine shops and the up-to-date character of their wares, in such a small place, are striking tributes to the business acumen of the tradespeople.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(1)—WATER SUPPLY.—The elaborate scheme prepared and carried out on the recommendation of Messrs. Strachan & Weeks, for the better supply and distribution of water to the District,

has acted admirably since its inception. There was some difficulty in supplying the high-level houses during a dry period, but with the service reservoir at West Down Beacon in operation, these difficulties have been successfully overcome, and there is sufficient pressure to supply any houses likely to be built for many years.

The District is supplied with water from three sources, Kersbrook, Sherbrook and Flagstaff, and the Public Analyst's Report on these waters is appended :—

ANALYSIS (STATED AS PARTS PER 100,000).

	<i>Kersbrook.</i>	<i>Sherbrook.</i>	<i>Flagstaff.</i>
Total Solids	30	11·2	32·4
Chlorine	3·5	4·3	3·4
Nitrites	0	0	0
Nitrates.. ..	0·6	0·64	0·36
Total Hardness	23·6	5·7	22·8
Temporary Hardness	19·5	2·0	19·8
Permanent Hardness	4·1	3·7	3·0
Saline Ammonia	0	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0012	0·013	0·0008
Metals	0	0	0
No. of Microbes per cubic centimetre	10	350	70
Bacillus Coli Communis per 100 cubic centimetres	0	20	0
Liquefying Microbes per cubic centimetre	0	50	20

(2)—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The works which were completed in 1911 for the better disposal of sewage continue to work satisfactorily, and all reflux of sewage on to the foreshore has been effectually prevented.

(3)—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Satisfactory. The few earth closets which still remain are kept in good order, and their number is steadily diminishing.

(4)—SCAVENGING.—House refuse is removed twice weekly. There is no destructor. Efficient receptacles for the temporary retention of household refuse are still too rare in many dwellings.

(5)—SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—A considerable number of inspections have been made during the year by the Surveyor and myself, and in many cases the acquiescence of owners or occupiers to suggestions for alterations or improvements has been secured at these interviews without recourse being had to more formal notices. No houses have been found unfit for habitation.

Statement required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling-houses under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Number of houses inspected under the Section ..	26
Number of houses considered unfit for habitation ..	Nil.
Number of houses of which representations were made to the local authority with a view to closing order	Nil.
Number of houses in which closing orders were made	Nil.
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied without making closing orders	8
Number of houses which after the making of closing orders were made fit for habitation.. .. .	Nil.
General character of defects found to exist in dwelling-houses inspected :—Needed whitewashing, dilapidated walls and floors, uncleanness, broken windows.	

(6)—SCHOOLS.—These are up to date in every particular, and the sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory.

The Infants' School was closed for a time owing to the prevalence of whooping cough amongst the children.

MILK SUPPLY.—The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops have been regularly inspected, and no gross sanitary defects have been

detected either in the distribution or storage of milk. The Cow-sheds, on the whole, are kept clean, in some cases under disadvantageous surroundings.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are ten in the District. They have all been systematically inspected, and no sanitary defects have been noted. All legal requirements have been observed. There are no underground bakehouses.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—The same remarks apply to these as to the Bakehouses. No tuberculous or other form of diseased meat has been brought to my notice.

HOUSING.—Many new houses have been erected during the year near the station. They are of a very superior type, and supply a much-needed want. The Byelaws as to drainage, water supply and sufficiency of light and air space, &c., have been fully complied with.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—There are no Factories in the District, and only a few Workshops. These have all been inspected during the year, and the results will be found appended at the end of this Report.

C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

STAFF.—The officials of the Sanitary Staff comprise the Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector and two employes, who are increased in number during the summer if necessary.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Patients who wish to be removed from their homes are received in the Exeter Sanatorium at Whipton, at an inclusive charge of 25/- per week per individual. Up to the present this arrangement has proved quite satisfactory, financially and otherwise.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK DURING THE YEAR.—Two analyses of the water supplied to the District are made yearly, and the reports are tabulated elsewhere.

A fresh stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is always at hand for the use of Medical Practitioners in the District, and gratuitous examination of throat swabs, and suspected sputum, is provided in doubtful cases.

D.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Nineteen cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. The case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ("Spotted Fever") proved fatal; there were no other fatalities.

SCARLET FEVER.—Two cases were notified. The sources of infection were not definitely determined, and the preventive measures taken against spreading were successful.

TYPHOID FEVER.—One case, a young adult. It was a very mild case, and could not be traced to any unsanitary environment.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.—This dangerous disease caused the death of the patient, a young man of 29. Very exhaustive efforts were made to discover the source of infection, but without result.

On the case becoming known, stringent precautions were immediately taken to prevent dissemination, and those in attendance on the patient were carefully instructed as to the means to be taken to safeguard themselves and others with whom they might be brought into contact.

POLIOMYELITIS—(INFANTILE PARALYSIS).—This disease has been recently included in the list of Notifiable Diseases. One case occurred.

CHICKEN POX.—Four cases of this disease were notified.

The preventive measures which are taken when a case of infectious disease is notified are immediate and thorough, and have been set forth in detail in previous reports. It is unnecessary to enumerate them here.

E.—PREVELANCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Ten cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. Four cases terminated fatally. Printed cards are left at the residence of the patient, setting out in simple language the best means for preventing infection to others, and a few rules for the patient's own guidance regarding diet, fresh air, the disposal of sputum, &c. On the removal or death of a patient the rooms which he occupied are at once thoroughly disinfected.

F.—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

No "influences threatening the health of the District" (Art. XIX. (1) of the Board's General Order) have come under my notice, nor have there been any case of illness traceable to food (Ptomaine) poisoning.

G.—MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

In such times as the present, with a large daily casualty list of vigorous young adults—the potential fathers of the future generation—it is the duty of every Sanitary Authority to assist as far as they can in any effort to preserve infant life. These efforts can, in many instances, be extended to expectant mothers. A well-fed woman living in healthy surroundings will be more likely to produce vigorous offspring than one living in a squalid and insanitary environment. The Government are actively engaging in this work, by encouraging the formation of Maternity Centres, where expectant mothers are instructed in simple methods for safeguarding their own health and that of their infants. But

the work does not end here. In many towns Health Visitors have been appointed, who continue to visit the children up to the time of school age, and the help given to mothers in the rearing of their children during this period is invaluable. In this connection the Notification of Births Act is of real value in helping to reduce infant mortality, and the presence of a trained and competent Nurse in your District is an additional factor of the greatest importance.

H.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The population at the Census in 1901 was 1,883 persons ; in 1911 it was 2,170, an increase of 287 persons in the ten years. For the purposes of this Report the population is estimated at 2,292 persons. The total number of deaths registered in the District was 29, to which must be added the deaths of two residents not registered in the District, making a nett total of 31, and producing a death rate of 13·5.

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—This term denotes the death-rate from the “seven principal Zymotic Diseases.” There were no deaths from any of these diseases.

BIRTHS.—Thirty-four births were registered—17 males and 17 females. There were no illegitimate births. The birth-rate is therefore 14·8 per 1,000. This is a very low rate, and is on a level with the gradual diminution of births which has been noted throughout the country for many years. Many causes combine to produce a low birth-rate, and some of them have been mentioned in previous Reports. The prime factor in your District is most probably the “age distribution” of the population, and a study of the question emphasises the urgent necessity of reducing infant mortality by every means in our power.

As pointed out in a previous paragraph, this is just what the Government is endeavouring to do, by means of Health Visitors, Maternity Centres, the Notification of Births, &c.

It is very satisfactory to record that no deaths of children under one year of age occurred in the District during 1915.

The conditions obtaining in the District last year were somewhat abnormal owing to the number of troops billeted in the town, but in reviewing the health of the town and the work done by the Sanitary staff, I think we may feel satisfied with the sanitary state of Budleigh Salterton. The behaviour of the soldiers during their temporary residence here was beyond reproach, and I think the town must have been proud to have had such a fine, orderly, body of men in their midst.

In conclusion, I have to thank all the members of the Council for their unvarying courtesy to me, and my best thanks are due to the Surveyor for his assistance in the compilation of this Report, and on many other occasions, nor must we forget the other servants of the Council who have performed their duties so satisfactorily.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CLARENCE BEESLEY, M.O.H.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Nuisances Detected	..	..	..	..	..	5
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	5
Slaughterhouses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Inspected..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Houses connected with Mains..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Houses connected with Sewers	..	..	..	..	..	21
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	..	..	..	..	..	6
New Buildings erected	..	..	..	..	..	16
Sewers and Drains Tested	..	..	..	..	..	24
Houses Disinfected after Illness	..	..	..	..	..	2

J. B. HOLDEN, *Surveyor.*

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1910	2,210	25	25	11'3	23	15'4	..	..	1	88'4	23	15'4
1911	2,177	44	44	20'2	20	9'1	..	..	4	90'9	20	9'1
1912	2,205	31	31	14'0	30	13'6	1	2	1	32'2	30	13'6
1913	2,240	26	26	11'6	32	14'2	1	2	1	38'5	31	13'8
1914	2,263	39	39	17'2	25	11'0	2	1	1	25'0	24	10'6
1915	2,292	34	34	14'8	29	12'6	..	2	..	..	31	13'5

Total population at all ages 2,170
 Total families or separate occupiers 554
 Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 840

At Census, 1911 (*cf.* Census, Vol. V.)

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera. Plague..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	10	..	..	..	1	8	1	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox ..	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	19	..	..	6	2	10	1	..

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	I	included in above figures
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INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	3 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes—Certified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, Overlying ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate, 34.
Illegitimate, —

Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants, —
Illegitimate Infants, —